

WHAT IS CUSLAR?

1986-1987?

The Committee on U.S./Latin American Relations (CUSLAR) is a Cornell University-based group which works in Ithaca and the surrounding areas to promote a greater understanding of Latin America and the Caribbean. The members of CUSLAR are a diverse group of people--undergraduate and graduate students, faculty members and community people. We are united in our concern about the role of the United States in influencing the social, political, and economic conditions of the region. Within this context we support the right of the people of Latin America and the Caribbean to self-determination and support their efforts to free themselves from a legacy of colonialism, underdevelopment and oppression.

Our activities include a very popular film series each semester, guest speakers, panel discussions on current issues and outreach activities in the Ithaca community. Our office is located in G-29 Anabel Taylor Hall and is open to the community on weekdays. It serves as a resource center, with a large variety of up-to-date publications including periodicals, pamphlets, books, slideshows, and materials from national and international sources. CUSLAR receives information regularly from various national solidarity networks* as well as other upstate N.Y. groups. All these resources are used not only to promote understanding among the community but also for our own education. This internal education process takes place through study groups, informal gatherings and discussions, and our weekly meetings. We feel that ongoing internal education is crucial if those engaged in this work are to speak out effectively and with authority.

Discussions about our work and its goals take place every Monday at 5pm, in the One World Room, Anabel Taylor Hall. This is where all major decisions are made and our work tasks divided up. We welcome, indeed we urgently need, the participation of individuals as well as local organizations. Bring us your ideas, suggestions and energy. Working together we can make a difference and actively demonstrate our solidarity with the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.

*Such as the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People (NNSNP), U.S. Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), National Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NNSGUA) and the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy.